

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Military Activity in the Fourth Gds Mecz Army AreaEVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     DATE OF CONTENT                     

25X1

DATE OBTAINED                     DATE PREPARED 7 July 1955REFERENCES                     PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     

25X1

REMARKS                       
This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

1. At about 1830 on 7 June 1955, a train carrying 18 trucks with pontoons, 21 trucks including some with boards, 2 motorboats, 1 amphibious vehicle, 1 field kitchen and 11 boxcarloads of soldiers passed through Jueterbog en route to Fuerstenwalde. 25X1
2. In the afternoon of 8 June, an engineer unit of approximately 120 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets and 8 trucks with pontoons were unloaded at the Fuerstenwalde railroad station and left for the Pionier Kaserne (4502).<sup>1</sup>
3. On 1 and 3 June, the following shipments were unloaded at the Prenzlau freight station: 25X1
  - 1 June. At 0600, 4 T-34/85 tanks, 1 six-wheel armored personnel carrier, 1 truck and 1 repair shop truck. 25X1
  - 3 June. At 1600, 3 x 37-mm AA guns, 4 six-wheel armored personnel carriers, 22 trucks including some carrying billeting equipment or soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, 1 radio truck, and 2 repair shop trucks. 25X1
4. On 5 June, 8 T-34/85 tanks practiced driving in the woods in the Grosse Heide west of Beenz, about 12 km southwest of Prenzlau. The area was restricted. It was learned from the chief of the Prenzlau special construction bureau that, a troop training grounds of approximately 750 ha was to be constructed in the Beenz-Kroechlendorf-Wichmannsdorf-Kuhz area. The training grounds was to be provided with a spur track. Wood was being cut. 25X1
5. In early June, it was determined that the training area near Beenz southwest of Prenzlau was marked by signboards which indicated that the area was restricted. Large warning signs were also seen in the adjacent villages. During a recent tank firing practice, 9 T-34 tanks, approximately 8 x 122-mm field howitzers and numerous trucks were seen. The cantonment west of Beenz was occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Barracks sections were almost daily trucked there from the direction of Camp Hammelspring at the Templin training grounds. Three large wooden observation towers were being erected on the Kroechlendorf-Beenz road.<sup>3</sup>

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6. Between 29 May and 12 June, the Neue Kaserne northwest of Vogelsang (south of 4823) was occupied to capacity. On 29 and 30 May, major march practices, each involving some 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with infantry insignia were held on the Zehdenick-Templin road.<sup>4</sup>
7. Between 2 and 11 June, the Panzer Kaserne (4002) in Bad Freienwalde was occupied to capacity by approximately 1,200 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. Training at company and battalion level was conducted in the training area near Altranft and north of Torgelow. The units stayed in the area for several days. Exercises including advanced combat practice were conducted also at night. When the units left for these exercises, up to 6 T-34/85 tanks, 4 x 85-mm AT guns, 2 x 57-mm AT guns, 2 x 120-mm mortars, 4 armored personnel carriers with twin-barreled AA machine guns, 18 two and three-axle armored personnel carriers, 12 trucks and sidecar motorcycles were observed. During the period under review, march practices at company and battalion level, including air alert warnings and security practices, were held in the vicinity of the post.<sup>5</sup>
8. Between 4 and 14 June, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne (4241) in Bernau was occupied to capacity. On 12 June, the engineer unit which had left in May was again observed in the installation. Units from the installation frequently left toward the Schoenow training grounds. Up to 10 T-34/85 tanks, 2 x 122-mm field howitzers, 1 JSU -249 gun, 10 trucks with soldiers, 5 tank trucks and columns of some 400 soldiers were seen.<sup>6</sup> 25X1
1. [ ] Comment. [ ] units of the 122d Gds Engr Bn of the 7th Gds Mecz Div returned in one shipment from Tangerhuetten to Fuerstenwalde on 8 June. 25X1
2. [ ] Comment. These were probably firing details of the 25th Tank Div which returned, presumably from the Templin training area. 25X1
3. [ ] Comment. Source of paragraph 5 and another source previously reported that a training grounds was to be prepared in the area mentioned and that a camp was being constructed near Beenz from dismantled barracks sections from the Templin training grounds. [ ] According to concordant information in the present report, it is quite definitely believed that a training area for Soviet Army units was to be constructed, rather than an advanced airfield. It cannot yet be determined, whether the training area was to be utilized by units from Prenzlau exclusively or whether units from other posts were also to be transferred there. 25X1
4. [ ] Comment. March practices similar to those of the 25th Tank Div, were also held by units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div in Bad Freienwalde. See paragraph 7 of the present report. 25X1
5. [ ] Comment. Units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div practiced at company and battalion level in known training areas in the vicinity of the posts, as was also observed with other divisions in the zone at that time. 25X1
6. [ ] Comment. For information on the exercises of units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div at the Schoenow post training grounds west of Bernau, [ ] Comment 5. [ ] major elements of the 22d Gds Engr Bn of the division returned to Bernau in 2 shipments [ ] from Tangerhuetten where they had conducted exercises on the Elbe River after early May. [ ] 25X1

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REPORT

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